

Appln. No. 09/885,415
Amdt/Rsp filed Dec. 12, 2005 with RCE
replying to Office Action mailed June 10, 2005

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 7451.0038-00
Intertrust Ref. No. IT-41.1

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for managing the use of electronic content, the system including:

an electronic appliance for (a) receiving encoded content and encoded control information, the encoded control information specifying, at least in part, how a decoded version of the encoded content may be used, and (b) rendering the encoded content and the encoded control information through an output of the electronic appliance, the output of the electronic appliance being designed to be coupled to an output device for presenting content to a user of the electronic appliance;

a retrofitting appliance connected to the output of the electronic appliance for (a) accepting the encoded content and the encoded control information from the output of the electronic appliance, (b) decoding, at least in part, the encoded control information to obtain a decoded version of the encoded control information, and (c) using the decoded control information to at least in part govern the use of decoded content corresponding to the encoded content; and

an output device connected to an output of the retrofitting appliance for presenting decoded content to a user of the electronic appliance.

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2. (Original) A system as in claim 1, in which the electronic appliance is selected from the group consisting of: CD player, DVD player, video cassette player, and television set-top box.

3-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system for managing the use of electronic content comprising:

a fixed content delivery channel having an input and an output, the fixed content delivery channel being operable to accept an input signal at said input, and to process the input signal to obtain an audio and/or video output signal renderable by a rendering device capable of being connected to the output;

a rendering device configured to be connected to the output of the fixed content delivery channel and to render audio and/or video signals received from the fixed content delivery channel to users of the fixed content delivery channel; and

a retrofitting appliance connected to the output of the fixed content delivery channel and configured to intercept an audio and/or video signal communication between the fixed content delivery channel and the rendering device, the communication comprising encoded content and at least one rule, the retrofitting appliance being operable to decode the encoded content, and, in accordance with the at least one rule, selectively transmit the decoded content to the rendering device for presentation to a user.

12. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 11, wherein the fixed content delivery

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channel is selected from the group consisting of: CD player, DVD player, video cassette player, cellular telephone; personal digital assistant; personal computer and television set-top box.

13. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 11, wherein the encoded content and at least one rule is received by the fixed content delivery channel in a format selected from the group consisting of: Red Book CD format; MPEG-1 format; MPEG-2 format; MPEG-3 format; MPEG-4 format; and DVD format.

14. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 11, wherein the fixed content delivery channel consists of a television set-top box, and wherein the rendering device consists of a television.

15. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 11, wherein the encoded content is delivered separately from the at least one rule.

16. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 11, wherein the encoded content is delivered with the at least one rule.

17. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 15, wherein the encoded content is received at the fixed content delivery channel after the at least one rule.

18. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 15, wherein the encoded content is received at the fixed content delivery channel before the at least one rule.

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19. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 11, wherein the communication is decrypted by the retrofitting appliance prior to being transmitted to the rendering device.

20. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 11, wherein the retrofitting appliance performs analog-to-digital conversion and re-sampling on the communication prior to transmitting the decoded content to the rendering device.

21. (New) A system for rendering electronic content, the system comprising:

a DVD player, the DVD player being operable to receive a DVD containing electronic content, read the electronic content from the DVD, and send the electronic content to an output port, the output port being designed to be connected to a video display to facilitate viewing of the electronic content;

a retrofitting appliance attached to the output port of the DVD player, the retrofitting appliance being operable to receive electronic content from the output port of the DVD player, retrieve control information from the electronic content, and use the control information to govern the transmission of a video signal embedded in the electronic content to an output of the retrofitting appliance, the output of the retrofitting appliance being designed to be connected to a video display to facilitate viewing of the video signal;

a video display having an input designed to be connected to the output port of the DVD player, the input being attached to the output of the retrofitting appliance, the video display being operable to accept the video signal from the retrofitting appliance and render the video signal to a user of the system;

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wherein the retrofitting appliance is a separate physical device from the DVD player and the video display, and is located externally to the DVD player and the video display.

22. (New) The system of claim 21, in which the retrofitting appliance comprises a processor and memory, and in which the memory includes software for controlling the operation of the retrofitting appliance.

23. (New) A method for rendering electronic content, the method comprising:

receiving, at a DVD player, a DVD containing electronic data;

retrieving the electronic data from the DVD;

sending the electronic data to an external output port of the DVD player;

at a retrofitting appliance physically separate from, but coupled to, the external output port of the DVD player, receiving the electronic data from the external output port of the DVD player, retrieving control information embedded in the electronic data, retrieving a video signal from the electronic data, using the control information to determine whether to permit use of the video signal, and sending the video signal to an output port of the retrofitting appliance; and

receiving the video signal at a video display system coupled to the output port of the retrofitting appliance, and displaying the video signal to a user.

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24. (New) The method of claim 23, in which the electronic data contained on the DVD is in digital format, the method further comprising:

converting the electronic data to analog format before sending the electronic data to the output port of the DVD player.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, in which the step of retrieving control information embedded in the electronic data includes performing an analog-to-digital conversion on the electronic data.

26. (New) The method of claim 23, in which the electronic data contained on the DVD is encoded in MPEG-2 format, the method further comprising:

converting the MPEG-2 format electronic data to analog format before sending the electronic data to the output port of the DVD player.

27. (New) The method of claim 23, in which retrieving a video signal from the electronic data includes:

decrypting the video signal in the retrofitting appliance.

28. (New) A method comprising:

disconnecting an output port of a DVD player from an input port of a television set;

connecting an input of a retrofitting appliance to the output port of the DVD player;

connecting an output of the retrofitting appliance to the input port of the television set;

using the DVD player to play a DVD, the DVD containing electronic content and

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control information encoded in a format decodable by the retrofitting appliance;

receiving the electronic content and control information at the retrofitting appliance;

decoding the control information; and

using the control information to determine whether to transmit a decoded version of
the electronic content to the television set.